

THE



Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1869, by SWETT & CHAMBERLAIN, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of New Hampshire.

SWETT & CHAMBERLAIN, Publishers and Proprietors.

Vol. I.]

HENNIKER, N. H., FEBRUARY, 1869.

[No. 2.]

LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF WILLIAM B. SWETT.

CONTINUED.

"THE OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN."

I HAD heard much of this great natural curiosity, and had thought that there must be *some* resemblance to a human profile, but I was not prepared for the "accurate chiselling and astonishing sculpture" which now met my eyes.

The "Profile" has "a stern, projecting, massive brow, which looks as if it contained the thought and wisdom of centuries." The nose is "straight and finely cut." The lips are thin and slightly parted, as if about to speak. The chin is "well thrown forward, and shows the hard, obstinate character of the "Old Man," who has faced the storms of ages with such unmoving steadiness."

As I stood there and looked at the towering cliff on which the "Old Man" is situated, all my appreciation of the grand and sublime in nature was awakened, and, mingled with other thoughts, came longings for a closer acquaintance with the "Old Man," and dreams of "doing and daring" in those wild regions as none had ever done before.

To the general observer, who sees the "Old Man" against a clear sky, the expression is one of earnest expectation, mingled with that "heart-sickness produced by hope long deferred." But the expression varies with the weather. Sometimes it appears on the point of giving utterance to speech; sometimes it wears a settled scowl, and at others a look of more than mortal sadness.

Clouds passing under the chin or above and around the forehead materially soften the expression and, by bearding and wiggling the face, make it very lifelike. The best time to see it is in the afternoon, when the sun is behind it. After a cold rain, I have seen the "Old Man's" face glisten beautifully and wear a smiling look.

During the four seasons which I have spent at the "Profile House," I have studied the "Old Man" in all its aspects as seen from below. It had a fascination for me, which drew me to it in storm and in calm; by day and by night; in season and out of season. It was a strange and unaccountable influence and an irresistible impulse.

Often as I have looked upon the "Old Man", both far and near, I am not satisfied; it still has the old attraction for me, and I hope to continue my researches in the vicinity.

Returning to the hotel, I spent the rest of the day in looking out of the windows upon the grand scenery with which it is surrounded and in recalling to mind the mountain adventures and narrow escapes of which I had read and trying to remember how the persons concerned acted in order to escape the danger they were in.

I always had a love of adventure, but made it a rule "never to get into danger until I had planned how to get out of it", and I think it very important and useful for people to study and remember *how to act* in case of exposure to any kind of danger. If this were more generally practised, there would be much less loss of life. A person with presence of mind has an immense advantage in case of accidents, and is worth a hundred who are wild and distracted. Knowledge how to act has saved my own life and limbs several times.

I will here relate two incidents which came under my own observation, as illustrating the foregoing remarks.

A man was at work on the roof of a large and high house, the covering of which was tin and very smooth. In some manner he lost his footing and began to slide down the slippery roof. To fall to the ground would be death. He had a shingling hatchet in his hand and with all his strength he drove it through the tin into the boards beneath, thus stopping his descent. Help soon came and he was rescued from his perilous situation, but if he had not had presence of mind and kept cool, he would certainly have been killed.

Another man was one day at work shingling the roof of a small house, within reach of and slightly above a chimney. The staging

on which he stood gave way and he began to follow it to the ground. Instead of grasping the chimney, as he might have done, being within reach of it, he threw away his hammer, spread out his arms and shouted for help. There was no help for him and he fell to the ground, breaking his leg and sustaining other severe injuries.

The chimney was plainly in his way and a little presence of mind would have saved him.

Presence of mind will enable a man to save himself, but to help others, he also needs courage; he needs to know what should be done in the presence of danger, and be brave enough to do it.

I remember well a time when I was at work on the side of a house, pretty high up, and noticed that one of the poles which supported the staging on which I stood was moving, the fastening having given way. The danger was great, but, fortunately, there was a young man at work on a stone wall directly under me. He saw the pole move and caught up an iron bar, which he drove into the side of the house and held the pole up until I got to a place of safety, directly after which the staging came to the ground and the young man, whose courage and presence of mind had saved my limbs, if not my life, narrowly escaped being crushed by the falling planks.

The next day I was able to go to work, and was much amused by the whisperings and pointings of my fellow workmen. They regarded me, for some time, as a strange person and seemed to be much afraid of my slate and pencil. One of them, who stood near me one day when I pulled out my slate for some purpose, ran away as fast as possible, showing fear on his face; but whether in fun or earnest I did not know, nor did I care, so long as there was nothing offensive in the manner. In course of time they got over this and treated me as one of themselves.

The Bowling Alley at the foot of Cannon Mountain, so called, had been entirely destroyed, and we were ordered to rebuild it.

It was destroyed in the following manner:

It snowed for half a day, then a cold rain followed, which froze solid; then fell a foot of snow and the next day was so warm that the snow melted, and not being absorbed by the frozen ground, ran down the mountain into the valley. Gulches and ravines were quickly flooded; brooks became rivers and cascades grew to cataracts. Behind the Alley ran a small brook which, overflowing its banks, undermined it and swept it away. The Hotel grounds were

Gallaudet College

LIBRARY

Kendall Green, Washington, D. C.

flooded, all the cellars filled with water and much damage was done. After finishing the Alley, we were put to shingling the Profile House, the size of which may be imagined from its taking eight men twelve days to finish the front side only, and on that alone they used fifty thousand feet of shingles.

SNOW-BALLING IN JUNE.

One warm day in June, I made one of a party of eight persons which ascended Cannon Mountain in search of quartz crystals, the distance being about a mile and a half.

It was my first experience in climbing mountains, and I was soon very tired. The path had been damaged by the spring freshets and the ascent, hard at any time, was then unusually so.

The day was fine, but just as we reached the top of the mountain we were enveloped in clouds, and could neither go for the crystals or enjoy the fine view which can be had in clear weather.

We were obliged cautiously to retrace our steps, lest we should lose our way. I was much disappointed, but comforted myself by the reflection that I could come again.

As we were descending, we saw, a short distance to one side of the path, a patch of snow, about an acre in extent and a foot deep, so situated in a hollow that the sun never shone upon it. We left the path and went toward it; while looking around, some one proposed a little fun. With the feelings of younger days, the members of the party, whose ages ranged from thirty-five to sixty, divided into equal bodies and took up positions, the agreement being to pelt each other until one party should be driven from the snow.

The snow was soft and easily worked, and the snow-balls flew fast and furious for more than an hour, when the party to which I belonged were driven from the field by a skilful movement of the other party, under the lead of an old gentleman of sixty, whose tactics would have been useful on a more earnest battle-field, and obliged to surrender.

The severe exercise had stirred our blood and put us in good humor, doing much to compensate us for the loss of our original object in coming up the mountain, and we resumed our homeward way well pleased with the novel and uncommon incident of making and using snow-balls in summer.

(To be continued.)

Miscellany.

THE CHILDREN.

BY CHARLES DICKENS.

WHEN the lessons and tasks are all ended,
And the school for the day is dismissed,
And the little ones gather around me,
To bid me good night and be kissed :
Oh, the little white arms that encircle
My neck in a tender embrace !
Oh, the smiles that are halos of heaven,
Shedding sunshine of love on my face !

And when they are gone I sit dreaming
Of my childhood, too lovely to last ;
Of love that my heart will remember,
When it wakes to the pulse of the past,
Ere the world and its wickedness made me
A partner of sorrow and sin :
When the glory of God was about me,
And the glory of gladness within.

Oh, my heart grows weak as a woman's,
And the fountains of feeling will flow,
When I think of the paths, steep and stony,
Where the feet of the dear ones must go ;
Of the mountains of sin hanging o'er them,
Of the tempest of fate blowing wild ;
Oh, there's nothing on earth half so holy
As the innocent heart of a child !

They are idols of hearts and of households ;
They are angels of God in disguise ;
His sunlight still sleeps in their tresses,
His glory still gleams in their eyes ;
Oh, those truants from home and from heaven,
They have made me more manly and mild !
And I now know how Jesus could liken
The Kingdom of God to a child !

I ask not a life for the dear ones
All radiant, as others have done,
But that life may have just enough shadow,
To temper the glare of the sun ;

I would pray God to guard them from evil,
 But my prayer would bound back to myself,
 Ah! a seraph may pray for a sinner,
 But a sinner must pray for himself.

The twig is so easily bended,
 I have banished the rule and the rod;
 I have taught them the goodness of knowledge,
 They have taught me the goodness of God;
 My heart is a dungeon of darkness,
 Where I shut them for breaking a rule,
 My frown is sufficient correction—
 My love is the law of the school.

I shall leave the old house in the autumn,
 To traverse the threshold no more;
 Ah, how I shall sigh for the dear ones,
 That meet me each morn at the door!
 I shall miss the "good nights" and the kisses,
 And the gush of their innocent glee,
 The group on the green, and the flowers
 That are brought every morning to me.

I shall miss them at morn and at evening,
 Their song in the school and the street;
 I shall miss the low hum of their voices,
 And the tramp of their delicate feet.
 When the lessons and tasks are all ended,
 And Death says, "The school is dismissed!"
 May the little ones gather around me,
 To bid me good night and be kissed.

BORROWING TROUBLE.—"The worst evils," says the proverb, "are those that never arrive." By way of practical counsel to all borrowers of trouble, I would say—Face the real difficulties and troubles of life, and you won't have time for practising the art of self-tormenting. The most contented people in the world are those who are most occupied in alleviating with Christian heart and hand the sorrows that flesh is heir to. Visit the homes of ignorance and poverty and vice, and in the face of the terrible realities you will there witness, your own petty cares will seem as nothing. The anxieties of the fancy will vanish altogether, while you will be far more able to bear those burdens which, though real, will seem light by comparison.—*Our Own Fireside.*

HEAVEN drops little fragments of itself here and there along our way, by way of assurance that heaven and love are one.

THE PUZZLES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Philadelphia *North American*, who is a native of Greece, gives a curious account of the difficulties his wife had in getting at the proper meaning of English words.

She was trading, and an article was offered for three dollars, which was half a dollar more than she was willing to give; and, as she had two and a half dollars, and had heard two and a half o'clock called half-past two, she offered *half-past two dollars*, and the trader laughed.

Wishing to become acquainted with the common words in our language which corresponded with those in her own, she asked the meaning of a Greek word signifying quick,—rapid. I told her it meant *fast*.

Not long afterward she heard *fast-day* mentioned. Her idea was that *fast-day* meant a day of revelling and rioting, when one may be justly said to be living fast. "Quite the contrary," said I "for fast, there, signifies abstemious, and is synonymous with *devoted to abstinence*." This remark found a place in her memorandum.

Several days afterward, at the ferry, as the steamer touched the landing, one of the hands exclaimed, "The chain is fast!" My wife opened her memorandum and found "rapid" and "devoted to abstinence," as the only synonymous terms of the word "fast." "It must be a singular chain," said she. "The meaning, in that position," remarked I, "is *tied*." This third signification was at once jotted down where it belonged.

Entering, one day, a dry-goods store, and examining an article, she requested me to ask the salesman if the color would not wash out. "Oh, no!" replied the man, "it is a fast color." "Fast color!" repeated she, "let me see. It is rapid, abstemious, or tied!" Upon that I told her to add a fourth signification,—*firm*.

On going out into the street, I inquired of an Englishman to find the residence of an acquaintance. "Your friend," replied he, "lives fast by yonder church." My wife, remembering that I had said that living fast signified to revel or to be riotous, was anxious to know if he revelled on fast-day. "No," replied I, "fast" there means *near*, and not riotous, nor rapid, abstemious, tied or firm."

Shortly after this, the river being frozen over; a friend of mine read aloud from the newspaper "that the river was fast." "Let me see," said my wife, producing her memorandum book, "the river is near, rapid, riotous, abstemious, tied or firm. Which of these six meanings must I select? The river must be overflowing its banks, if it is near, rapid and riotous; but, if it is abstemious, tied and firm, it must be dammed!" I informed her that none of these renderings would do in this case but *frozen over*. "Well then," said she, "a fast river is one that is frozen over, is it?" "No" replied I, "a fast river is a rapid one." "Alas!" said she, "how difficult the English language is."

As the north wind was blowing very roughly and cold one day, an order was given to the servant to see that the doors and windows were fast. "Fast, fast, fast,!" exclaimed my wife, opening her memorandum book, "the servant must see that the doors and windows are riotous, rapid, abstemious, tied, firm, near or frozen over! Help me out of this. There must be another idiom lurking here. What is it?" "In that situation," replied I, "the word 'fast' signifies *closed*." "Can I," rejoined she, "say a *fast window* in the same sense?" "Of course not," was my answer. She then accused the language of stiness and obscurity; and though I endeavored to repel the charge, she wondered how it could have brought so many perplexing idioms all the way from the Tower of Babel, and asked if the Americans would always submit to such tyranny.

A physician disputing with his patient was anxious to repress his haste in laying plans for amusement and business, and said, "wait till you are well. Don't be so fast!" My wife, overhearing the advice, was puzzled to discover the true sense. "Don't be so riotous. He is far from it. Don't be so rapid. He cannot move. Don't be so abstemious. A useless counsel, for he must be so. Don't be so tied. He is weak enough to keep his bed without. Don't be so firm. There is no danger in that. Don't be so near. He cannot approach. Don't be so shut or frozen over! Nonsense! There must be a ninth signification; what is it, if you please, walking lexicon!" "Don't be so fast," I replied, "signifies, don't be *in such a hurry*!" This new meaning was noted down, and I was then asked if it would be correct to say "a fast man." "In that position," said I, "fast signifies *ambitious*." I was then requested to tell her, at once, all the meanings of the word, but, not succeeding in finding half the above significations in the lexicon, and not remembering the rest, I told her that the others might be learned by practice.

"Alas!" said she, "this English is a very fast language." "You are right," replied I, "and one must stick fast to the dictionary, hold fast to the words, and be fast in recalling the meanings, to proceed fast in its acquisition."

THERE is in Brookline, this State, a house built in 1801, by a young man then unmarried. He afterwards took to himself a wife, moved into his new house, and has dwelt there ever since, both himself and wife being alive at a hale old age. They had four sons, named Europe, Asia, Africa, and America; and then, having run out their list of male names, they brought up a couple of daughters. These six children all married, and the old people became the grandparents of a very large family. The six children have died, and a great number of the grandchildren, and yet the old house, sixty-five years old, has never been the scene of a marriage, death or funeral. So we are told by Rev. Mr. Sawin, formerly a resident of Brookline.

AN OBEDIENT PRIVATE.—During the war, a good story used to be told of a private in one of the Massachusetts regiments—the 14th I think. It seems that his captain was noted for his love of good things, and one day told the high private to go for some oysters; also giving him, in his usual jocose way, the command:

“Don’t come back without them.”

Off went the man, and no more was seen of him for several days, and the indignant and disappointed captain reported him as a deserter, and gave him up as a “lost child.” But lo! after a lapse of nine days, the captain beheld his reported deserter, Bailey, coming into camp, leading a train of four wagons loaded with oysters. Approaching and respectfully saluting the amazed captain, Bailey reported:

“Here are your oysters, captain; could not find any at Alexandria, so I chartered a schooner and made a voyage to Fortress Monroe and Norfolk for them. There’s about two hundred bushels; where do you want them?”

Bailey, it seems, really did make the trip, hired his men, and sold oysters enough in Georgetown, before reporting, to pay all expenses, and leave him a profit of a hundred and fifty dollars.

The two hundred bushels were divided among the regiment, and Bailey returned to his duty as if nothing had transpired.

THE BELLE THAT ANSWERED THE KNOCKER.—Eagle, in his essays, relates that one day a very decent-looking, respectable man, of about twenty-five years, who carried on some small business in a neighboring town, a widower and a Wesleyan, knocked at his door. He was then a perfect stranger. The man servant opened it. “I want,” said the stranger, “to speak with one of Mr.—’s female servants!” “Which?” “Oh, it does not signify which.” The announcement was made in the kitchen. “I am sure I won’t go,” said one. “Nor I,” said another. “Then I will,” said the nurse, and straight she went to the door. “Do you wish to speak with me, sir?” “Yes, I do,” said the stranger. “I am a widower, and I hear a very good character of Mr.—’s servants. I want a wife, and you will do very well.” “Please walk in, sir,” said the nurse. The man was really in earnest. In due time he married the woman, and I verily believe that neither of them had any reason to repent the choice thus singularly made. She fell into his ways—had a good voice, and joined him in many a hymn, thus manifesting their happiness and their thanks; while he was busy about his work she rocked the cradle. I represent them as I saw them, and I doubt not their life was one comfortable scene.

If you would kill a slander, let it alone!

GRIND THE TOOLS.—Keep your tools sharp or they will not cut. A dull tool wastes time, and he who uses or permits it to be used in that state is a dull fellow. The best turners are those who use the sharpest tools; the most successful surgeon uses the keenest knives, and the most energetic and enterprising men are those whose wits have been sharpened and whose perceptions have been made keen by hard experience in early life. A dull tool is a useless thing and no one but a thick headed person will use it.

Grind up your tools and sharpen your wits also; if one is keen, the other will probably be like it from force of sympathy alone. A boy with a dull pocket knife is one who swings on the gate and avoids his duty; he is one who will be, in after life, a great dunce and a useless man; he will not add anything to the world of science, neither will he take anything from it; his existence will be merely animal; his thoughts and ideas, if he has any, will be of no value. The boy with a sharp knife makes models of machinery, of boats or steamers, and in time he becomes a useful and valued member of society.

Unless all tools are kept in good condition, sharp and ready for service, the result produced with them will never be equal to the time and labor expended.—*Scientific American*.

THE FIRST AMERICAN POETRY.—There are few girls and boys in this country who have not heard the nursery rhyme sung by their mother while rocking the cradle:

“Lull-a-by baby upon the tree top;
When the wind blows the cradle will rock;
When the bough breaks the cradle will fall,
And down comes cradle, baby and all.”

But how many of you know the origin of these simple lines? We have the following account from the records of the Boston Historical Society: “Shortly after our forefathers landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, a party were out in the field where the Indian women were picking strawberries. Several of these women or squaws, as they are called, had papooses—that is, babies—and having no cradles, they had tied them up in Indian fashion, and hung them from the limbs of the surrounding trees. Sure enough, ‘when the wind blew these cradles would rock.’ A young man of the party, observing this, peeled off a piece of bark and wrote the above lines, which it is believed is the first poetry written in America.”

THE chains with which the devil binds and holds many of his subjects are made of gold!

HAPPINESS is a perfume that one cannot shed over another without a few drops falling on themselves.

Agricultural Department.

FARM NOTES FOR FEBRUARY.

This is the shortest, and one of the coldest months of the year. Nevertheless it is a month in which a good farmer will find much to do.

He will frequently visit his barn, stables and barnyard, to see that his animals are all comfortable, especially in the cold, drenching, or sharp, driving storms we sometimes have in this month. He will take care that they have just enough. By feeding little at a time and often, the animals will eat more and waste less.

He will draw out an abundant woodpile, if this was not fully done in January. Nothing is more vexatious than to have to leave your work in the hurry of haying or harvest to provide fuel from the woods, perhaps green wood at that. In cutting the wood for the fire, carefully select what will not grow to good timber; never cut down a promising timber tree to burn.

He will have his fencing stuff ready. Some say this is not a good time to cut it, but no one will dispute that this is a good time to hole your posts, sharpen your rails, and have all ready to set your fences as soon as the frost is well out of the ground.

He will pay special attention and give extra shelter to cows about to have calves, and ewes about to have lambs.

He will look to his bees, and take care that, if a warm day tempts them out, they do not get lost in the snow; better shut up the hive till the snow is gone.

J. R. B.

— Farmers should remember that boys cannot work *all* the time, and yet feel smart and able to work. All work and no play, or no time to rest, makes them dull and then they are called "lazy." They must have days, or parts of days, to themselves, and then they are ready to work when called upon. Besides this, let them have a piece of ground to plant for themselves and give them the produce: this will encourage them. Let them own a little stock of some kind; something to keep up their courage and interest in the operations of the farm.

Some farmers have an only son; in such cases, the *father* must place confidence in the *son*, and then he can depend upon him.

If farmers were careful and anxious to interest their boys in farm life and to show them, *by experience*, that it is not all *work*, we should hear less about the boys' leaving the farm for some other occupation as soon as they are their own masters.

FACTS FOR FARMERS. If you buy tools, and then leave them exposed to the weather, it is the same as lending money to a spendthrift without security; a dead loss in both cases.

If you buy books, and never read them, it is the same as putting your money into a bank and never drawing principal or interest.

If you invest money in fine stock, and do not feed and protect them, and properly care for them, it is the same as dressing your wife in silks to do kitchen work.

If you buy choice fruit-trees, and do not give them a chance to grow and prove their value, it is the same as putting a good hand into the field with poor tools to work with.

If you invest your money in strong drink, it is the same as turning hungry hogs into a growing corn-field; ruin will follow in both cases.

BORROWERS.—No man who cannot afford to buy and own all the necessary tools should attempt to carry on a farm; and no farmer should encourage a habitual borrower in the practice.

A borrower is the pest of the neighborhood in which he lives. He generally has half-a-dozen borrowed tools on hand, belonging to as many different persons. He seldom returns them himself when he has done with them; the owners generally have to go or send for them, and the tools are not often in as good order as they were when borrowed, and are frequently spoiled.

An occasional favor to a neighbor is all very well; it is the continual and habitual borrower to whom we refer. A man who never thinks of owning a hoe or an axe so long as he can borrow should never be encouraged.

The impudence of the habitual borrower is aptly illustrated by the anecdote told of an Irishman who borrowed a new basket of a neighbor with which to get in coal. The bottom of the basket being forced out before he had finished, he carried it back late at night and having brought the owner to the door, coolly requested him to get the basket repaired as soon as possible, because he wanted to get in the rest of his coal.

FARMING FOR YOUNG MEN.—If a young man wishes to engage in a business that will insure him, in middle life, the greatest amount of leisure time, there is nothing more sure than farming. If he has an independent turn of mind, let him be a farmer. If he wishes to engage in a healthy occupation, let him till the land. In short, if he would be independent, let him get a spot of earth; keep within his means, to shun the lawyers; be honest to have a clear conscience; improve the soil, so as to leave the world better than he found it; and then, if he cannot live happily and die content, there is no hope for him.

Religious Department.

THE VOICES OF WISDOM.

A BRIEF RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE,

CONTINUED.

THE voice of wisdom is the voice of God. It speaks to us from all parts of his wide creation. Who can declare all the teachings of this many-voiced instructor?

2. It speaks to us in the events of history.

Let us review the past. Let us look at some of the great events and the little events that have happened in the history of mankind and inquire what the voice of wisdom says to us in them.

The Deluge was one of the great events of the past. The great, good Creator had made the earth very beautiful. He had filled it with plants and flowers and trees and fruits and vegetables pleasant to the eye and to the taste, and given abundance of things agreeable to the senses of mankind; enough to satisfy all their wants. Birds and fowl to fly in air. Fish to live and swim in water. Beasts and smaller animals to tread upon the ground, and insects gay and beautiful to creep and fly. The earth was full of things beautiful and useful for man, but man had become selfish and unthankful; he had turned away from the love and service of his Creator, his great, good Father in Heaven. God called man to repent and return to obedience. Proud, wicked man refused to yield obedience to his God. Long and patiently God waited. Then came the terrible displeasure of offended mercy! The good, merciful Creator destroyed the beautiful world of his own creation! Why? Did he hate the creatures of his own hand? No, but he loved righteousness better than his own dear creatures. He loved obedience to the everlasting law of truth and goodness better than the whole beautiful world that he had made. He foresaw the necessity of showing to the future ages of mankind that should live upon the earth a dreadful example of his severe justice in punishing his rebellious creatures. Like a good father, he wished to make his children afraid to disobey his laws and destroy themselves. Therefore he brought upon the earth the terrible deluge!

"Behold the goodness and severity of God." Now, listen to the words of wisdom; the voice of God; the words of offended goodness and mercy.

"Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded. But ye have set at nought all my counsels, and would none of my reproof.

"I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

"Then shall they call upon me but I will not answer; they shall seek me early but they shall not find me.

"For that they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord.

"They would none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof. Therefore, shall they eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

"For the turning away of the simple shall stay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

"But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."

Listen to the words of wisdom.

B.

(To be continued.)

REPENTANCE.

Repentance is a sincere sorrow for sin, producing a thorough reformation of heart and life. It is the duty of all men to repent, because all men are sinners: and it behooves all men to repent because all who continue in a state of impenitence must perish forever. And nothing is gained, but every thing is periled by delay. Never will it be easier for a person to repent than now; never will he have fewer sins to repent of than now; and every day's delay diminishes the possibility of his repentance. A writer exposes the folly and danger of postponing repentance, thus:

A hermit was conducted by an angel into a wood, where he saw an old man cutting down boughs to make up a burden. When it was large he tied it up, and attempted to lift it on his shoulders and carry it away; but finding it very heavy, he laid it down again, cut more wood and heaped it on, and then tried to carry it off. This he repeated several times, always adding something to the load, after trying in vain to raise it from the ground. In the mean time the hermit, astonished at the old man's folly, desired the angel to explain what this meant.

"You behold," said he, "in the foolish old man, an exact representation of those who, being made sensible of the burden of their sins, resolve to repent, but soon grow weary, and instead of lessening their burden increase it every day. At each trial they find the task heavier than before, and so put it off a little longer, in vain hoping that they will at some future time be more able to accomplish it. Thus they go on adding to their burden, till it grows too heavy to be borne, and then, in despair of God's mercy, and with their sins unrepented of, they lie down and die. Turn again, my son, and behold the end of the old man whom thou sawest heaping up a load of boughs."

The hermit looked, and saw him in vain attempting to remove the pile, which was now accumulated far beyond his strength to raise. His feeble limbs tottered over their burden; the poor remains of his strength were fast ebbing away; the darkness of death was gathering around him; and after a convulsive and impotent attempt to lift the pile, he fell down and expired. Impenitent reader, you must repent. Begin to-day.—*Religious Herald*.

MORAL PURITY.—The first and highest and most perpetual study of your life should be to develop within yourself an absolute and positive *reverence* for moral purity and power. You should teach your soul to loathe impurity; to abhor with a deep and hearty disgust all moral debasement; to shudder at the thought of doing evil, or of seeing it in others. There is no such thing as cultivating too deep an abhorrence of evil, or too high a respect and admiration for moral excellence. The very thought of wrong should be cast out of the mind as its most deadly enemy; while the thoughts of goodness, purity, all moral loveliness, should be cherished as angel guests which are building up within you a sure foundation for pure and permanent affections. There is nothing else that seems to me to be of so much importance, of such priceless value, as a just appreciation of *moral worth*. It is not only the basis of all true affection, but the foundation of all that is noble, great, and good in human character. The basis of moral excellence may be placed in the religious principle. This is the only safe and sure foundation. The religious feelings, religious affections, religious sentiments should be cultivated most assiduously. The fervor of religious feelings should transfuse itself through the whole being. Religion should be held as a sacred and heavenly thing. Religious feelings should be respected everywhere, and in everybody. We should hold them so supremely sacred as to feel that we have no power to outrage the religious sentiments or feelings of any human being. And we should feel that an affection based on such a respect for things sacred and good, must be pure and permanent.

HONESTY.—As there is no station in life, however exalted, which can secure a man the approbation of the wise and good when he descends to mean and dishonorable deeds, so no condition in human life, however humble, will prove as a barrier to true eminence, when virtue and honorable principle are the main spring of our actions.

God, in his providence, works by chosen instruments. He gives us that we may give to others. He gives us wisdom that we may instruct the ignorant, and he gives us wealth that we may assist the poor.

He which cheerfully commits the universe to God has nothing in the universe to fear.

ALL SORTS.

WORKS, not words, are the proof of love.

WE have all forgotten more than we remember.

THE worth of a thing is best known by the want of it.

THOSE friends which poverty has are true ones.

BEAUTIFUL was the reply of a venerable man to the question, whether he was in the land of the living: "No, but I am almost there."

WANT less than you have, and you will always have more than you want!

MANY of the gay sons and daughters of *pleasure* never have a moment of true *happiness*!

THE influence of women, either for good or evil, on the heart and mind of man is omnipotent. Vain are the struggles to resist. In misfortune it tempers the energies, in prosperity it adds a grace to them.

HUMILITY.—In the school of Christ, the first lesson of all is self-denial and humility; yea, it is written above the door, as the rule of entry, or admission: "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart." And out of all question, that is truly the humblest heart that has the most of Christ in it.

A SCOFFER once scornfully asked, "what advantage has a religious man over any one like myself? Does not the sun shine on me as well as on him this fine day?" "Yes," replied his companion, a pious laborer, "but the religious man has two suns shining on him at the same time—one on his body, the other on his soul."

A CONTRAST.—In the year 1572, the wages of a laboring man were less than four cents a day, while the price of a Bible at the same period was about one hundred and eighty dollars. A common laborer, in those days, must toil on industriously for thirteen long years, if he would possess a copy of the word of God. Now the earnings of half a day will pay the cost of a beautifully printed copy of the Bible. What a contrast!

FRESH AIR.—Every breath we draw, we take into the lungs from one and a half to two pints of air; so that it requires about two and a half gallons of pure air a minute, or sixty hogsheads every twenty-four hours, properly to supply the lungs. How important, then, to health, to have houses well ventilated, and not to sleep in small close rooms!

A TEAM OF CHICKENS.—A gentleman in Pittsburg, Pa., has whiled his leisure hours away in training four chickens to draw a small wagon in which a rooster is perched. They come when called by name, and when harnessed they rattle over the lawn with great speed, while the rooster looks grave and dignified.

THE DEAF-MUTES' FRIEND.

WM. MARTIN CHAMBERLAIN, Editor.

FEBRUARY, 1869.

SINCE we issued our first number we have received much additional encouragement and many words of cheer.

It is not yet time for us to hear from our far-away friends, but those nearer to us have given evidence of intention to keep their promises of support.

Every subscription which comes in, and every kind word which our letters contain is an additional inducement for us to devote our energies and our time to making the FRIEND a permanent and useful journal,

We have received quite a number of very acceptable suggestions in regard to improvements in our magazine, and wish all our friends would send us anything of the kind which they may have in mind.

One of our subscribers desires an occasional political article. We cannot gratify him, as we shall not meddle with politics; there are other and abler journals to attend to the matter, and we have no inclination to fill our columns with matters so foreign to the aim and object of the FRIEND.

Always ready to answer all reasonable questions and to furnish all the information in our power, we yet prefer to avoid discussion on subjects other than those that are especially interesting to the deaf and dumb.

We wish particularly to impress upon our correspondents and contributors our desire that they should send their favors in about the *first week* of each month; this will enable us to arrange articles in better order and to retain the several departments in their proper places. To wait for letters and items till the last part of the month will often put us to much inconvenience. Please send us what you may have during the first week, and if there is anything more, send it as it comes; we making use of it in the same number, or filing it for the next, as the case may be. We shall thus be enabled to have "copy" ahead, which will be a great advantage to us.

Our readers will see, by the notice on another page, that the subscription list of the *National Deaf-Mute Gazette* has passed into

the hands of the proprietors of the FRIEND, and we hope its contributors and correspondents will transfer their favors to us. We are ready to make arrangements with them and hope to hear from some of them before another issue.

IN the *Gazette* for November, 1868, is an extract from Louisa Mullbach's historical novel "Joseph II and his Court," in which is given the Emperor's remarks to Maria Antoinette, the Queen of France, on his visit to the Abbe De l' Epee's institution for the deaf and dumb, at Paris. G. T. S., the correspondent who sends the extract, wishes to know if the Emperor did found a school as he intended.

We insert an article quoted from an old book sent by another correspondent as answer and we also insert that part of the article in the *Gazette* which is more particularly referred to, as well as the enquiry of G. T. S.

"I visited a noble institution," said the Emperor, "the school for Deaf-Mutes. The Abbe de l' Epee deserves the homage of the world for this monument of individual charity; for I have been told that his institution has never yet received assistance from the crown. My dear sister, I venture to ask alms of you for his unfortunate *proteges*. With what strength of love has he explored the dark recesses of their minds, to bear within the light of intelligence and cultivation! Think how he has rescued them from a joyless stupor, to place them by the side of thinking, reasoning, happy human beings! As soon as I return to Vienna, I shall found an institution for the deaf and dumb. I have already arranged with the Abbe to impart his system to a person, who shall be sent to conduct the Asylum I propose to endow."

Now, Mr. Editor, we wish to know if Joseph II. succeeded in founding an Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in his country. You will oblige us very much by letting us hear about it through your paper. G. T. S.

"The Emperor Joseph II. of Austria, after witnessing the success of the Abbe de l' Epee, resolved to found in his own dominions an institution so necessary to the wants of his subjects. During two hours and a half, the qualifications attainable by the deaf and dumb, when their powers have been properly developed, were attentively regarded by the emperor, who had in his thoughts a young lady of high birth at Vienna, in this deplorable state, whose parents wished to give her a Christian education. On being consulted as to the measures to be taken for this end, the Abbe offered either to educate the young lady gratuitously if she were brought to Paris, or to instruct any intelligent person who might be sent to him in the method to be pursued. The emperor accepted the latter proposal, as it opened the prospect of permanent relief for others of his subjects who might be in the same affecting circumstances. On his return to Vienna, he addressed a highly flattering letter to M. de l' Epee by the Abbe Storch, the person whom he selected for introducing the education of the deaf-mutes into his dominions. The Abbe

Storch is spoken of by the Abbe de l' Epee as 'filled with the purest sacerdotal spirit, and amply endowed with every talent his mission could require.' A royal institution was accordingly founded at Vienna, which was the first national establishment ever erected for the deaf and dumb.

When the emperor Joseph visited the Abbe de l' Epee's school again, he expressed his astonishment that a man so deserving had not obtained at least an Abbey, whose revenues he might apply to the wants of the deaf and dumb. He offered to ask one for him or even to give him one in his dominions. 'I am already old,' said M. de l' Epee, 'if your majesty wishes well to the deaf and dumb, it is not on *my* head, already bending to the tomb, that the benefit must fall, it is on the work itself.'

THE City Government of Boston have appointed a committee of gentlemen to investigate facts and report on the expediency of establishing a school for deaf-mutes in the city.

It is also ordered that a time be appointed for exhibitions, before the City Authorities, of the methods of instruction employed at the schools for the deaf and dumb at Northampton, Mass., and Hartford, Conn., in order to decide which method of instruction shall be employed in the proposed school.

We look with much interest for the exhibitions and their results, and we trust that the gentlemen on the committee will be guided to a right decision in a matter of so much importance. We shall give our readers all possible particulars of the progress of the enterprise.

THE Annual Levee of the Deaf-Mutes of Boston and vicinity was held in Mercantile Hall, 33 Summer street, on the night of January 1st. The arrangements were in charge of Mr. P. W. Packard, and consisted of tableaux, a collation and other amusements. There were about two hundred deaf-mutes present, a large proportion of whom were ladies. Many more would have attended, but the violent snow-storm which began in the middle of the day and continued through most of the night, kept many away. The hall was kept open all night and the assembly did not disperse till eight o'clock the next morning.

"THE Sixth Annual Report of the Directors and Officers of the Minnesota Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind" is received.

The health of all connected with the Institution has been excellent the past year.

During the year fifty-eight pupils have been connected with the school; thirty-three males and twenty-five females. Fifty-one of these, twenty-nine males and twenty-two females, were deaf and dumb; the remaining seven being blind pupils. Twenty-nine pupils received during the year; twenty-six deaf and dumb and three blind. Five have been dismissed. Actual attendance at date of Report, fifty-three.

Several changes have occurred in and additions have been made to the corps of teachers and officers, among which we especially notice the appointment of Miss Mary A. Hall of New Haven, Conn., to the post of Assistant Matron. Miss Hall formerly occupied the same position in the American Asylum at Hartford, and we remember her quite well.

Three of the most advanced pupils teach part of the time and study the rest, thereby acquiring a knowledge of the theory and practice of teaching which will be of great value to them should they decide to become teachers. It seems to us that this arrangement might be advantageously carried out in other Institutions.

The school has occupied a new building erected for it but eight months and is already too large for its accommodation, and the need of enlarged facilities is strongly urged.

The Statutes of Minnesota require a list of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind children in the State, "who have not attended the school" and a list of fifty-one is given as the best that can be compiled from the imperfect data at hand.

We wish every State had a similar law. More deaf mutes would then get the benefit of an education, which is now too often lost to them by either indifference or ignorance on the part of their friends.

FOR the benefit of mutes and their friends who may visit Boston, and desire to attend Divine Service in the "Sign Language," we will state that the "Boston Deaf-Mute Christian Association" holds regular meetings three times every Sunday at 460 Washington street. The exercises consist of a Sermon at 10 1-2 o'clock in the morning; a Bible-Class at 3 P.M.; and a conference or prayer-meeting in the evening at 7 1-2 o'clock. The place where they meet is known as "Templars' Hall."

ON a late Sunday, a man went into the drug-store, corner of Arch and Tenth Streets, in Philadelphia, Pa., and asked for money, by signs, and he showed a certificate that he was deaf and dumb. Mr. Lancaster did not give him money. The man then said, by signs, that he was afflicted with cramps. Mr. L. gave him a dose of Cayenne pepper. This the man swallowed and then wanted some water very badly. Mr. L. gave him a piece of camphor, making signs for him to eat it. This was too much. The impostor, for such he was, swore at Mr. L. in very good English and left the store. He was afterwards arrested and locked up as a vagrant.

MRS. Persis B. Swett, sister to Thomas Brown, and mother of Wm. B. Swett, is suffering greatly from a disease of very long standing, and is not expected to live much longer.

SUBSCRIBERS in Canada must send us *twenty cents extra*, as we have to pre-pay the postage on their magazines.

IN our last issue we noticed the case of Levi Jack, of Dixmont, Me., and we have since obtained the following particulars:

Jack had been an inmate of the Alms-house for a number of years. He spent some time, after leaving Hartford, in California, but returned broken down in body and mind.

Since then he has been, for about two years, confined in the Insane Hospital at Augusta, Me., from which he was discharged as cured,

It appears that he really did set the Alms-house on fire, and it is said that he also admits having set the fire which destroyed the old Alms-house some years ago.

A mute friend of ours, who saw him while in jail, says that Jack confessed that he did set the fire and gave as his reason for doing so, that he thought the act would restore him to health, he being in a consumption and otherwise afflicted.

While he may have been perfectly sane a part of the time, we have little doubt, from what we know of him, that his mind was not right sometimes; in other words, that it was subject to "fits of aberration."

To hang him after such a poor and unfair trial as he had would have been shameful, although we are glad to say that, by the laws of Maine, he would not have been hung, even though he was sentenced.

As it is, he will not live long, and it is some comfort to know that the poor fellow will be well taken care of for the rest of his life.

Without relatives or friends to take an interest in him, he is much better off in the Insane Hospital than he was in the Alms-house, and in our opinion, he should never have been discharged from the Hospital.

We hold that no deaf-mute can be *fairly* tried for any crime in any court unless he has the benefit of an intelligent interpreter to translate to him and from him everything which passes between the court and prisoner. Such interpreters, persons who are perfectly acquainted with both the mute language and the English, and can translate both ways with equal facility, can always be found and their services secured by application at any institution for the deaf and dumb, and one should always be sent for, no matter how small the offence, provided it requires a trial, otherwise the mute stands rather a poor chance of having justice done him.

At the late Mechanic Fair in Concord, N. H., Mr. Wm. B. Swett exhibited a copy of his famous model of the "Old Man of the Mountain," for which a Diploma was awarded to him.

At the same Fair, a glass case of fine boots was exhibited by Mr. Batchelder of Concord, for which a silver medal was awarded. One of the finest pairs of boots in the case was made by Mr. Archibald Allison, deaf-mute and a graduate of the American Asylum. He is a native of Nova Scotia; has worked for Mr. Batchelder many years, and is believed to be the best French boot-maker in the city of Concord.

PARTICULAR NOTICE.

Mr. Philo W. Packard having discontinued the publication of the *National Deaf-Mute Gazette*, we have made arrangements with him to send the FRIEND to all of his subscribers whose time has not expired for the remainder of their respective terms.

In looking over the list which he has handed to us, we find a few names of those who have already paid us for the FRIEND. To all such we will give their choice:—We will send them *one* copy of the FRIEND for such time as will pay them for both subscriptions, or we will send them *two* copies of the FRIEND for such time as the two subscriptions may run together.

For instance: If a person has paid us for the FRIEND in advance for one year, whose name appears on the *Gazette* list as having six months more to run, we will send him or her one copy of the FRIEND for eighteen months, a year and a half, or two copies for nine months.

All those who have paid for both *Gazette* and FRIEND will please write to us and tell us how they will have it. We make this arrangement because we wish to satisfy and deal fairly with all.

BOSTON, MASS., Jan. 13th, 1869.

To the subscribers and friends of the *National Deaf-Mute Gazette*.

Having discontinued the publication of the *Gazette*, I have handed over my subscription list for 1869 to Messrs. Swett and Chamberlain, Publishers and Proprietors of the FRIEND, and they have agreed to settle with my subscribers. I desire that the patronage and support which has been given to the *Gazette* should be transferred to the FRIEND, as I believe that the deaf-mute community should not be without a paper of their own, and that the FRIEND will be such a paper as they desire and need.

I should have discontinued the *Gazette* even if no other paper had been started, as other circumstances rendered it necessary. If I could have borne the expense a year or two longer, I think I should have attained a foundation, but, unable to do this, I can no longer gratify my friends.

In taking my leave of you, I desire to thank you for the interest you have shown in my enterprise and to hope that you will all show the same to the FRIEND.

P. W. PACKARD.

In printing the covers of the January number of the FRIEND the printer got it "single copies, 18 cents," which blunder has been corrected and, as will be seen, now reads "15 cents," for which sum we will send single copies, *postage paid*, to any address.

A FRIEND writes that he will pay a good price for certain numbers of the old *Gallaudet Guide*, and those of our readers who have any will oblige us by letting us know what numbers they have, and the price if they wish to sell.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

[As a general rule, we shall answer the letters we receive, other than strictly business ones, in this department. If an answer by mail is desired to a letter which asks for information outside of business matters, it can be had by enclosing a stamp to pay return postage.]

Three cents is a small sum to pay for one, but if we were to mail answers to all letters we receive, it would cost us many dollars. We shall always be happy to give any information in our power, subject only to the above condition.

All persons, either subscribers or correspondents, will please write name, town, county and state plainly and fully; this will prevent mistakes and save much trouble. In case of removal, let us know immediately, giving both present and former place of residence.

Write whatever you know, feel or think, which you consider of interest: we will make all necessary corrections in the articles we use, and thank you for them.

Correspondents can generally tell whether their articles are received and what we intend to do with them by looking below. We especially desire that all our regular correspondents should send in their favors during the first week of each month, to enable us to go to press early.

All communications must be addressed to SWETT & CHAMBERLAIN, Henniker, New Hampshire, U. S. A.]

EUREKA.—Please direct to Henniker, N. H.

P. P. P. —Would like to hear from you. Think we wrote last.

C. N. B.—Received the book. Thank you for the evidence that you remember "auld lang syne" which, though short, was sweet.

PINNA.—Sent you "Amicus." Received? Have seen our s—c b—g friend several times. Same as ever. Can't you enter the field?

CLYMER, A. J. and G. S.—Your letters received. The suggestions are *capital* and shall be acted on. Will write on the other matters anon.

C.—Shall be happy to hear from you at any time, on any subject.

G. T. S.—Please transfer favots.

SEVERAL ENQUIRERS.—Mr. Swett, when he came to talk over matters with Mr. Chamberlain, saw that the business could be much better managed if C. was a partner instead of being editor only, and therefore concluded to publish the FRIEND under the firm name of SWETT & CHAMBERLAIN, and the advantages of the decision are already apparent.

"C.," writing from Hartford, says: "The younger part of the pupils at the American Asylum had some tableaux on January 9th. A few of the best were "The Royal Family," "The Broken Engagement," and "The Guardian Angel." It made the evening pass very pleasantly for the pupils."

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Jan. 8th, 1869.

DEAR FRIEND:—It gives me pleasure to greet your advent in the field in which others have so unsuccessfully trod, and which is yet so vast a field for usefulness. Having thy birth among the rugged New Hampshire hills, may thy life be as sturdy as that of the sons of the Granite State and may you go on ever increasing in usefulness, and be as firm in the defence of the true interests of the deaf and dumb as are the immovable hills from whence thou comest forth to us this glad New Year.

Mutes, all, see how neat our FRIEND looks; observe the brave promise it bears on its face of being to us a *friend in need*. Come forward with your countenance and support and help it to be a friend indeed. Let it not be said of us that we wilfully rejected the kind endeavors of those who sought to do us good; that we turned our backs on one who, with sincere intentions strove to be our *Friend*. Follow STELLA's advice, men as well as ladies, and let us have a paper which is wholly and thoroughly our own,

In pursuance of my own advice, it may not be uninteresting if I give a few of my observations in and about Washington, the city of all cities on which the eye of an American rests with never failing interest. Take up almost any paper you may, and there is something in it from or about the "city of magnificent distances"; and it is, therefore, with some timidity, that I assume the important post of "Washington Correspondent"

I will begin with *Congress* which, as a patriotic American, I must call the most dignified legislative body in the world! But you would not think so if you were to drop in during the afternoon deliberations of the House of Representatives, and look down on the confusion that seems to reign supreme on the floor of the magnificent hall in which this branch of Congress meets.

Pages are running about among groups of members; a dozen men seem to be speaking at the same time, and you are surprised to see some curious looking objects in the places where heads ought to be, which upon closer inspection prove to be *boots* elevated on the desks, their owners being hidden behind the *Globe*, *Chronicle*, and other newspapers.

You wonder why that man with the bald head and burly form is pounding his desk so vigorously. He cannot be speaking, for no one is paying the slightest attention to what he is doing; all are either talking, reading, writing or running about. Not even Mr. Colfax, the Speaker of the House, who sits tranquilly counting the bills upon his desk or carrying on a conversation with some friend, appears to be aware that the individual in question

is shouting himself hoarse in a burst of eloquence that will, perhaps, on the morrow, be quoted throughout the land as the greatest speech of the session. Yet the member goes on hammering just as earnestly as though every eye was fixed upon him, and every ear attentive with breathless interest. He is evidently satisfied with the knowledge that his glorious speech will appear in the *Congressional Globe*, a paper which publishes all the speeches.

Still, as you look around upon the great number of bald heads, you feel that dignity is not altogether wanting; and as the light is reflected from each shining pate, you begin to be a little dissatisfied with your own bonny locks and to wish you were a little bald, since it is such a general characteristic of great men,

Let us hope that this baldness does not, in the language of an honorable member, used toward a colleague, result from "wisdom wearing the hair off in its fruitless efforts to get into the heads so distinguished."

The House of Representatives is the popular branch, and is generally the most interesting to all persons; for sharp debates occasionally arise and there are keen and vigorous thrusts among the members who, being younger, as a general rule, have not that control over themselves when excited, which the grave and dignified senators almost always evince.

In these encounters, which enliven the usually dull proceedings, Mr. Colfax rouses from his seeming indifference, and at any breach of the rules, the sharp rap of his gavel brings the offender to his senses and restores order.

In the Senate, it is the same as in the House, only on a smaller scale, and as a general thing the Senate is much the most orderly and dignified body of the two.

In Congress one can see a large number of those men who have become famous in the land. Indeed, a seat in Congress seems to be the reward of merit which a grateful people bestows upon its favorites. Thus, by taking a peep at Congress, you can see the representative spirit of the land; and, in a certain sense, even John Morrissey can be said to represent his district well.

Without doubt many of your readers have heard of the Institution for the deaf and dumb, situated in this city. It still prospers, although the number in the Primary Department has been somewhat reduced by the withdrawal of a considerable portion of the Maryland pupils, who have been placed in the new Institution at Frederick City.

The Report of the Washington Institution will, I am informed, be soon published, and it will contain much that is interesting, including a report of the proceedings of the Conference of Principals that met at this Institution last Spring.

The young and highly respected President of this Institution, Mr. E. M. Gallaudet, has just returned from the North, where he has been during the Christmas holidays. He brought back with him a very beautiful young bride, Miss Susie Denison, that was, a sister of Mr. James Denison, the gifted Orator of the last Convention of the "New England Gallaudet Association of Deaf-mutes."

President Gallaudet stands in the foremost rank of the profession of deaf-mute instruction, and his untiring energy and thorough devotion to the interests of the deaf and dumb make him a worthy successor of his honored father, and I am sure all the readers of the FRIEND will join their congratulations with mine on his acquisition of such a beautiful and accomplished helpmeet, and wish them much happiness and the blessing of God in their journey through life.

The improvements and extensions to this Institution still go on, and it promises to have no superior in the land in a very few years. Congress has been liberal in its appropriations, and the work that it is doing will without doubt more than repay the expenditure. If Congress continues its generous support this Institution will advance to a high grade of usefulness and be an honor to the land as well as to its founders.

The "American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb" was resuscitated at the conference of principals before referred to, and Professor Pratt, of the "National Deaf-Mute College", appointed editor. It is printed by the boys at the North Carolina Institution and is quite neatly gotten up. I refer your readers to it for interesting articles, and am pleased to remark that it promises to be carried on with more than former ability. CLYMER.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB,
New York, January 18th, 1869.

FRIEND CHAMBERLAIN:—On the 19th of December, the "Fanwood Literary Association" held a lively debate on the question: "Which is the best trade for the Deaf and Dumb, Cabinet Making or Shoemaking?" At the close of the debate the vote was sixty-seven for the former to forty-seven for the latter. The two next Saturdays, Dec. 26th, and Jan. 2nd, were given to social reunions in the girls' sitting room.

About half the pupils were absent on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year, and full two hundred on the day before New Year. Those who went home to spend the holidays went, in some cases, two or three hundred miles. Most of them returned to school during the week beginning Jan. 4th. Those whose friends indulge them in a longer absence will lose precious time.

On Saturday evening, Jan. 9th, Mr. Van Tassel favored the Association with an interesting lecture on "My Cave Life in Vicksburg," being the adventures of a lady who shared in the dangers and privations of that famous siege. He was rewarded with applause and a vote of thanks. Mr. H. D. Reaves added a graphic and animated relation of one of the incidents of the same siege of Vicksburg: the celebrated stratagem of the old barge converted into a sham Monitor, and sent floating by night past the batteries of the Rebels, who, find-

ing their utmost efforts with every gun they had did not sink the terrible looking craft, sent a messenger in furious haste down the river with orders to blow up the fine iron clad Steamer, Queen of the West, which they had recently captured; thus losing, in a panic produced by a trick, the control of the river below Vicksburg.

At each meeting of the Association for a debate or a lecture, Prof. Johnson acts as Reader of the News of the Week. Providing himself with a carefully prepared budget of news from the newspapers, he reads it to the Association in his clear and graphic signs. The members of the Association are thus kept well informed on all events of interest, from the Emperor Napoleon's promise of peace in his New Year's speech, or the growling and bristling up between Greece and Turkey, to the President's New Year party of three hundred children in the White House; or the fatal plunge, through the ice of a pond, by a Christmas sleighing party of thirty young people in Northern Pennsylvania.

Saturday, January 16, being the birthday of the accomplished wife of our Principal, the usual course of exercises of the Association was varied in honor of that event. A committee was appointed to get up a series of *Tableaux Vivants* (living pictures) to which all the pupils of the Institution were admitted. Many others, including some guests from a distance, were also present, so that the spacious Chapel of the Institution was crowded. The committee, of which Mr. Reaves, and Misses Ensign, Ransom and Vandewater were members, got up the entertainment in the very best style. The scenes were admirably selected, and the costumes, attitudes, actions and accessories were such as to give a most life-like and impressive effect.

[Want of room obliges us to defer an interesting description of the tableaux to our next number.]

Prof. F. A. Rising retired from the Institution on the first of January.

A new experiment has been commenced by collecting in one class all the semi-mutes, except those now in the High Class. This new class is placed under the care of our special teacher in Articulation, Dr. Metcalfe. There are thirty-seven now in it, and our Principal is confident that out of so large an Institution (four hundred and ninety-one pupils in all) we can, with Dr. Metcalfe's system, challenge the world for success in articulation and lip-reading, in those cases where these accomplishments are attainable, as well as in the education of the true deaf-mute by the well established system, the cornerstone of which is the improved language of natural signs.

We have recently had a very encouraging visit from Gov. Marcus L. Ward of New Jersey, who paid particular attention to the beneficiaries of that State, twenty-seven in all, in all stages of progress, from the youngest class to the High Class.

Jan. 13th, the Officers and Managers of the "Empire State Association of Deaf-mutes," viz: Alphonso Johnson, of the New York Institution, President; Wm. O. Fitzgerald, of New York, Vice-President; Henry C. Rider, of Mex-

ico, N. Y., Secretary; Cornelius Cuddeback, of Lyons, N. Y., Treasurer, and Messrs. S. A. Taber, E. E. Miles, M. D. Bartlett and W. McDougal, Managers, met at the Institution to consult on the time and place for the next Biennial Meeting or Convention of the Association. They decided on Ithaca, N. Y., as the place, and the last Wednesday in August as the time. Prof. D. R. Tillinghast, of the North Carolina Institution, was appointed Orator, and Prof. T. J. Trist of Philadelphia, alternate, both the gentlemen are graduates of this Institution.

On page 25 of the FRIEND for January, we read, "In all other Institutions, so I have been informed, a deaf-mute is never permitted to officiate in the religious services held on Thanksgiving Day, or other important occasions." How this is with other Institutions I cannot say, they will speak for themselves; but here the deaf-mute teachers officiate in the religious services in their turn. The Principal usually assumes the task of lecturing on Thanksgiving Day himself, but if anything should prevent him he would be as likely to transfer it to a deaf-mute teacher as to one of the speaking professors.

J. R. B.

[An interesting description of the celebration of Dr. Peet's seventy-fourth birth-day, and some other items belonging to this letter are laid over to the March number.]

LETTER FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE.

MR. EDITOR;—I desire to write, for the "FRIEND, a few appropriate hints on the New Year; in hopes that a faithful and energetic editorial management may secure sufficient patronage to establish it as a useful and successful journal for our mute community.

Hour succeeds hour; day follows day; weeks, months and years succeed each other rapidly; the hand on the mammoth dial of Time just points to a new date, and it is good to adjust our accounts for the past year and open them anew for another. The year 1868, with its labors, cares and sorrows, and its joys and pleasures, is numbered with the years of the past, and we await the unseen events and labors of a new year.

May it be to all the patrons of the FRIEND a year of pleasure and successful course,

The wheels of time whirl rapidly; the past year having wheeled out and a new year wheeled in. The disappointments of the past, instead of discouraging us, should teach us wisdom in laying our plans for the future, and also to improve our precious time. From past successes let us all embrace new faith and energy.

"The gods help those who help themselves." said the old master of Fable, and all experience admits that he was right. Says the poet:

"Hope springs perennial in the human breast."

Then may our efforts and resolutions not be confined to the field of agriculture or mechanics, but let us also aim at intellectual, social and moral culture. May we aim not only to provide for our bodily wants, but also to increase in knowledge, social refinement and holy living.

A review of the results of the season just closed admonishes us of devout thankfulness for the blessings with which our labors have been crowned. Local cheats and disappointments have occurred, but on the whole, the country has been blessed with plenteous harvests and universal health. The enormous staple crops were probably never better and manufactures and commerce have yielded good results to wise enterprise. The future is full of promise and circumstances are prophetic of glorious results.

Mr. Editor: do you not think it possible to hold a National Convention of deaf-mutes, their teachers and friends, in some suitable place, at a future time? I should consider this idea, if carried out, as a meritorious and beneficial step. I should like to know what your judicious readers think of it and where they think may be a convenient place for the supposed Convention, and let them give their ideas in the FRIEND.

"All's well!" then let us commence the labors of the new year with renewed feelings of gratitude to the Divine Giver of every good thing, with a growth of charity in our hearts for all men, and work for the good of humanity with all diligence and patience. and may it be to us all "A Happy New Year."

T. B.

January 1, 1869.

[T. B.'s idea of a National Convention is one that has been spoken of by some others, and has much good in it. Under judicious and able management such an event would be productive of great and beneficial results.

We have no doubt that there will, at some future time, be such a gathering of deaf-mutes, their teachers and friends, as the world never saw; but a great deal of time and thought must first be expended to make the enterprise successful. Meantime, let us hear what our brothers and sisters have to say about it. ED.]

A DOUBLE BAPTISM.

AN interesting scene was witnessed by a large number of spectators, on the 11th of this month, in St. Ann's Church, New York, of which Dr. Gallaudet is the Rector. His own twins, eleven weeks old, were baptised, together with seven other babes, a boy of ten and an adult.

One of the twins, a fine boy, was named LAURENT CLERC; and our venerable friend, being the sponsor to his little namesake, was present and appeared to enjoy the honor thus conferred upon him. In spite of his great age and bodily feebleness, he bore the frail little creature in his arms with the

skill and tenderness of an experienced nurse. There, by the font, stood the remarkable mute, whose hairs have been whitened by four-score and four winters, bearing on his left arm the infant grandson of his bosom friend and fellow-laborer, while he spelt on his right fingers the name, LAURENT CLERC GALLAUDET. Indeed, there were none of the tremors of age in his hand. The child was christened by his son, Rev. Dr. Francis Clerc, of Philadelphia.

The association, in the infant, of the two names dear to all American mutes, rendered the occasion doubly interesting, and was one which promised not to be soon forgotten. It was one of the most pleasing events in Mr. Clerc's history.

The other twin, a girl, was named Edith; a pretty name, all thought and said. All join me in the sentiment that little Clerc and Edith may grow up: the former, a Clerc-Gallaudetian friend of deaf-mutes; the latter, an angel constantly near the servant of God in his declining years.

New York, January, 1869.

A MUTE SPECTATOR.

MANUAL ALPHABETS.

NUMBER TWO.

WHETHER Pedro Ponce, the Benedictine Monk who was the first known teacher of the mutes, used a manual alphabet, cannot certainly be said, as we have scarcely any information concerning his processes of instruction. But we know that such an alphabet was an important instrument of instruction with his countryman and successor, John Paul Bonet. The latter, in his book, printed at Madrid in 1620, (the earliest known treatise on the art of instructing the deaf and dumb,) gives an engraving of the manual alphabet he used, which we thus learn agreed in about two thirds of the letters with that now used in France and America, the remaining letters differing for the most part but slightly. It is not known whether Bonet invented this alphabet or found it already in use, I think the latter supposition most probable.

When the Abbe de l'Epee began the instruction of the deaf and dumb, he used, for spelling words, a sort of alphabet which, he said, was used before his time by the children in school to exchange words silently so as not to be found out by their master. This alphabet seems to have been an awkward and inconvenient one, some of the letters being made with one hand, some with both, some by putting the hand or fingers to some part of the face or person.

Cotemporary with De l'Epee was Pereire, (or Peregra,) a Jew from Spain, ancestor of the present distinguished French financiers of that name. He taught several deaf mutes with eminent success, making much use of a

manual alphabet improved from that of Bonet. De l' Epee, as he himself tells us, learned this alphabet from Sabourenx Fontenay, one of Periere's best pupils. Yet many persons believe that this alphabet was invented by De l' Epee himself. The statue erected to that good man by his native city of Versailles represents him in the act of devoutly thanking Heaven for inspiring him to invent the manual alphabet. He was the inventor of the system of Methodic Signs, but borrowed his manual alphabet ready made.

The manual alphabet which De l' Epee learned from a pupil of Pereire, and which the latter brought from Spain, is the same that is now used in the French and American schools, and is gradually making its way in the British schools, though most of these latter still cling to the two-handed alphabet which has been used in England for centuries, and has the recommendation of being very generally known in society.

Of these two alphabets, the French, Spanish, or one-handed alphabet is certainly the most graceful and convenient. In a multitude of cases, we may have one hand engaged, and of course it will be hardly possible at such times to spell intelligibly if at all, with both hands; for instance, in riding or holding an umbrella, or in reading from a letter or book in one hand. Yet the two-handed alphabet has some advantages. Its characters, admitting more obvious analogies with the forms of letters, are more easily learned, and they are visible at a greater distance, and with less light; I think also it is less fatiguing to the muscles. Either alphabet can be used in the dark, after a little practice. In point of rapidity, after actual trial, I am unable to say which has the advantage, but think the two-handed alphabet, presenting as it were, letters in larger type, can be *read* faster than the other, by one equally practiced with both.

A deaf-mute of nimble fingers and quick perception will spell out the Lord's prayer by either alphabet in about half a minute, omitting no letter. Some can do it in less, but not so as to be legible to average eyes. This is from three to four times as fast as an expert penman can write the same prayer so as to be legible, though probably three or four times as slow as it can be read orally by one expert in oral reading.

While the one handed alphabet commonly used in France and this country is quite graceful and convenient, it is by no means the best that could be desired. But I must defer the continuation of this subject to another number.

ROBERTSON.

We see an item in the newspapers saying that a Congress of deaf-mutes met lately in Berlin, the capital of Prussia, to take measures for devising a substitute for the present signs and finger alphabet in general use among the deaf and dumb, and, while we do not think that this will soon be done, yet we should be glad to know what ideas were expressed, and whether any decision was reached, or what progress was made toward the desired end.

THE Clark Institution for deaf-mutes at Northampton, Mass., held its annual meeting on Tuesday, January 19th. Gardner G. Hubbard, Esq., of Boston, was elected President, and Gov. Claflin and James B. Congdon, of New Bedford, Vice Presidents. The School was reported in good condition, with thirty-four pupils, of whom thirty-two are boarders and two are day scholars. The number of teachers is four, being an average of eight pupils to each teacher.—*Boston Herald.*

WHAT'S THE USE?—What's the use of minding what "they say?" What's the use of lying awake o' nights with the unkind remark of some false friend running through your brain like forked lightning? What's the use of getting into a worry and fret over gossip that has been set afloat to your disadvantage by some meddlesome busybody? These things cannot possibly injure you, unless, indeed, you take notice of them, and in combating them give them character and standing. If what is said is true, set yourself right at once; if false, let it go for what it will fetch, until it dies of inherent weakness.

Marriages.

In Woonsocket, R. I., Nov. 25th, 1868, Mr. WHIPPLE M. FOLLET, (hearing) to Mrs. MINERVA M. SMITH. (A graduate of the American Asylum.)

[Many of our readers will remember Mrs. Smith, formerly Minerva Mowry, as one of the most attractive young ladies at Hartford in 1844—9, and not a few besides ourself have pleasant memories of the winsome way she had of cheering and whiling away otherwise wearisome hours. We hope her second venture into matrimony may be successful. Ed.]

At Akron, Ohio, Dec. 22nd, 1868, Mr. JACOB W. W. POWELL to Miss LOUISA WAGNER. (Both graduates of the Ohio Institution.)

At Scipio, Cayuga Co., N. Y., Dec. 16th, by the Rev. Thomas Gallaudet, D. D., Mr. GEORGE NELSON BURWELL to Miss SILENCE TABER. (Both graduates of the New York Institution.)

Deaths.

In Farmington, Ills., Nov. 3rd, 1858, JOHN B. HAM, formerly of Lowell, Mass. (A graduate of the American Asylum.)

At the N. Y. Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Dec. 10, 1868, WILLIAM A. DEXTER, of Perry, Chautauque Co., N. Y., a pupil at the Institution.

He was found dead and cold in his bed early in the morning. He had been in the Institution only nine months. He was a semi-mute, and a promising young man. He had been much troubled with pain in his head, but no one thought him in any danger. The cause of his death was *serous apoplexy*.

In Boston, Mass., Jan. 20th, of croup, the only child of Edward and Mary Fitzpatrick.